Amendment to the Claims:

Listing of the Claims:

1. − 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of executing a two-phase commit protocol for a transaction, the transaction involving a coordinator and a cohort and the method comprising the steps performed in the coordinator of:

prior to termination of the transaction, receiving a message of the transaction from the cohort, the message being augmented with state information indicating whether the transaction modifies the cohort's data;

retaining the state information for the cohort; ~~and~~

when the transaction terminates, reading the state information for the cohort; and

if the state information for the cohort indicates that the transaction does not modify the cohort's data, sending an abort message of the two-phase commit protocol to the cohort without sending a commit request message of the two-phase commit protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of executing a two-phase commit protocol for a transaction, the transaction involving a coordinator and a cohort and the method comprising the steps performed in the cohort of:

prior to termination of the transaction, augmenting a message that the cohort sends to the coordinator as part of the transaction with state information indicating ~~whether~~ that the transaction will not modify the cohort; and

when the transaction terminates, receiving an abort message ~~responding to~~

~~messages received~~ from the coordinator as required by the <u>two-phase</u> commit protocol

<u>without receiving a commit request message of the two-phase commit protocol</u>~~.~~

~~the coordinator sending a message of the commit protocol to the cohort as determined by~~

~~the state information~~.

11. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:

the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs the

method of claim 9.

21. (Previously Presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:

the data storage device contains code which, when executed by a processor, performs the

method of claim 10.

22. – 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A coordinator in a distributed system that coordinates a two-

phase commit protocol employed with a transaction that involves one or more cohorts in

the distributed system,

the coordinator having the improvement comprising:

retained state information that retains state of a cohort, the state indicating whether the transaction will modify the cohort's data,

the coordinator receiving <u>prior to termination of the transaction</u> a message of the transaction from the cohort which has been augmented with the state information, retaining the state information from the augmented message in the retained state information, and

<u>when the transaction terminates, reading the retained state information for the cohort, and</u> if the retained state information for the cohort indicates that the transaction does not modify the cohort's data, sending an abort message of the two-phase commit protocol to the cohort <u>without sending a commit request message of the two-phase commit protocol</u>.

31.　(Currently Amended)　A cohort in a distributed system in which a coordinator in the distributed system coordinates a two-phase commit protocol employed with a transaction that involves the cohort,

the cohort having the improvement comprising:

a message of the transaction that is augmented with state information indicating ~~whether~~ <u>that</u> the transaction will <u>not</u> modify the cohort's data,

the cohort sending the message to the coordinator <u>prior to termination of the transaction</u> and the coordinator retaining the state information<u>,</u> and

<u>when the transaction terminates, receiving</u> ~~if the retained state information for the cohort indicates that the transaction does not modify the cohort's data, sending~~ an abort

message of the two-phase commit protocol ~~to the cohort~~ <u>from the coordinator without receiving a commit request message of the two-phase commit protocol</u>.